U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Preliminary Environmental Assessment

DOI-BLM-NV-L030-2012-0041-EA

March 14, 2013

Small Volume Wildlife Water Developments North Pahrocs

Applicant: **Cooperative Project with the Nevada Department of Wildlife**

Lincoln County, Nevada

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
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1. Introduction

This Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzes the impacts of constructing six small volume wildlife water projects. The EA is a site-specific analysis of potential impacts that could result with the implementation of a proposed action or alternatives to the proposed action. The EA assists the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in project planning and ensuring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and in making a determination as to whether any "significant" impacts could result from the analyzed actions. "Significance" is determined by the consideration of context and intensity of the impacts. If there is a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), the context and intensity criteria are listed with rationale for the determination in the FONSI document.

This document is tiered to the *Ely Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement* (RMP/EIS) released in November 2007. Should a determination be made that implementation of the proposed or alternative actions would not result in "significant environmental impacts" or "significant environmental impacts beyond those already disclosed in the existing NEPA document", a FONSI will be prepared to document that determination, and a Decision Record issued providing the rationale for approving the chosen alternative.

1.1 Background

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) and the BLM propose to construct six small volume wildlife water developments in the North Pahroc Range. Small volume wildlife water developments are self-contained structures designed to collect rain water or snow melt. Each development consists of a 2'x5'x10' tank which is buried up to an opening left to allow access. On top of each tank an "apron" is placed to catch the rain or snow and channel it into the tank. Each development is fenced to keep out livestock, wild horses, and large wildlife.

Small volume water developments are designed to allow wildlife safe access to water utilizing available cover within the surrounding habitat. Normally they are located in areas where water from storm events would naturally collect, forming small pools or creating areas of greener denser vegetation, or near natural springs or seeps. The denser vegetation provides wildlife with shade and concealment and helps them recognize the site as a potential water source. The convergence of two drainages or washes provides a movement corridor from the water source back to safer higher ground, usually composed of rocky outcrops also utilized by gallinaceous birds as escape cover.

1.2. Purpose & Need for the Proposal

The purpose for the proposed action is to respond to Nevada Department of Wildlife's small animal water development proposal; fulfilling BLM's multiple-use mandate under FLPMA.
The need for the proposed action is to improve distribution of small animal water resources as determined by the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Due to a lack of water sources in the North Pahroc Range of the Caliente Field Office (Ely District BLM), there is a need to expand water distribution for small wildlife. Under current conditions, wildlife habitat is fragmented and species distribution is limited to current home ranges. Due to cumulative impacts of land uses in Lincoln County, species of special management consideration to NDOW and to the BLM continue to experience problems that may eventually lead to these species becoming threatened or endangered over time. To help offset the lack of water sources, BLM and NDOW propose to construct and maintain six small volume wildlife water developments in the North Pahroc mountain range. Small game water developments benefit upland birds and other small species of wildlife present in the habitats surrounding them by providing reliable water sources, decreasing habitat fragmentation, and enhancing species viability.

1.3 Preliminary Issues

Issues that were identified through internal scoping included:

- Cultural Resources
- Wildlife
- Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation

2.0 Proposed Action

NDOW proposes to construct six small volume water developments (see map, Appendix 1) to provide water to birds, small mammals and reptiles. The water developments would be constructed in the North Pahrocs, approximately 30 miles northwest of the city of Caliente. Each unit would consist of a fiberglass tank with a capacity ranging from 350 to 900 gallons. Units would be buried to "lip" level (10' X 5' X 2' deep), equipped with a fiberglass lid to keep out dirt, debris, to slow evaporation, and a rocked in fiberglass ramp to allow access for target species. A 14'6" x 16' metal catchment apron is constructed over the tank with gutter and downspout attached to channel rainwater into the tank once it hits the apron (See Appendix 1 for illustration).

Guidelines for small volume water development construction will be followed, (See BLM Technical Note #397 "Wildlife Water Catchment Construction in Nevada", September, 1997). There is no separate drinker associated with the units. All units will be painted to blend in with the surrounding environment to reduce visual impacts. At a 4" annual precipitation rate, each unit would capture 578.45 gallons per year, filling the 900 gallon tank in just less than 19 months. Each unit would be fenced to BLM specifications (i.e., 42 inches high with three strands of barbed wire and a smooth bottom wire) using T-posts and barbed wire to exclude large ungulates and domestic cattle. The footprint of each unit would be approximately 625 square feet (with a 25'x 25' fence). Total amount of

permanently disturbed habitat would be 3,750 square feet or roughly less than one tenth of an acre. NDOW would construct the water developments in fall 2012 to 2013.

Cultural resource surveys have been conducted at all six of the proposed sites, and no resources were found. During construction, the guzzler may be placed within a five acre area surrounding the GPS point. This will allow any cultural resource sites to be avoided should anything be found during construction.

Table 1. Individual Water Development Locations

Development Name	UTM Easting	UTM Northing	Map Reference	Access
North Pahroc 1	680415	4182363	T2S R63E Sec. 17	Existing road
North Pahroc 2	680801	4184669	T2S R63E Sec. 8	Existing road to wash
North Pahroc 3	680593	4185892	T2S R63E Sec. 5	Existing road to wash
North Pahroc 4	679724	4190361	T1S R63E Sec. 19	Existing road to wash
North Pahroc 5	681067	4191772	T1S R63E Sec. 20	Helicopter
North Pahroc 6	680380	4190209	T1S R63E Sec. 20/29	Existing road to wash or helicopter

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Figure 1 A typical small volume water development in the East Mormon Mts.

The following design features are incorporated in the Proposed Action.

- Small volume water developments may be located near existing roads or may be placed in more remote locations depending on site suitability. On units located near existing roads, materials would be delivered to the site by truck and trailer, and excavation for the tank would be performed with the use of a backhoe. For remote sites, materials may be flown in by helicopter and holes for the tank would be excavated with the use of gas powered, pneumatic or manually operated tools. For these units to be constructed, some overland travel would be necessary. No new roads or trails would be established.

- In some cases a limited amount of disturbance may be necessary to allow for access of a rubber tired backhoe, but the tracks left would immediately be hand seeded with native or desirable non-native species once the individual unit is completed, depending on the level of disturbance. Reclamation will normally be accomplished with native seeds only. These will be representative of the indigenous species present in the adjacent habitat. Rationale for potential seeding with selected non-native species will be documented. Possible exceptions would include use of non-native species for a temporary cover crop to out-compete weeds. Where large acreages are burned by fires and seeding is required for erosion control, all native species could be cost prohibitive and/or unavailable. In all cases, seed mixes would be approved by the BLM Authorized Officer prior to planting.
- Cactus and Yucca Salvage – Salvage of all Joshua trees and banana yucca (1 to 8 feet tall), golden cholla cactus (1 to 3 feet tall), and hedgehog cactus will be conducted prior to site disturbing activities. All Joshua trees, banana yucca, golden cholla, and hedgehog cacti whose vegetative mass is more than 40 percent dead will not be salvaged but instead be mulched. Salvaged Joshua trees, banana yucca, golden cholla, and hedgehog cactus will be transplanted to a burn site on BLM land (the specific area to be designated by BLM prior to salvage operations).
- Where no road or trails exist, an NDOW biolo**g**ist would precede any vehicles or heavy equipment and map a route to each project site with the least impacts to native vegetation.
- Trash, food items and litter would be promptly contained and removed from the area immediately upon completion of the project. The proponent would dispose of refuse resulting from the permitted use, including flagging, signs, waste materials, garbage, and rubbish of all kinds. The proponent is responsible for clean-up and would assume liability for any and all releases of hazardous substances. Proponent would immediately notify the BLM Authorized Officer and the National Response Center at 687-9485 or 888 331-6337 (NDEP) on all spills/releases in which the reportable quantity for the particular compound is exceeded - 40 CFR part 302.
- Newly constructed water developments will be inspected annually to ensure proper functioning condition. Access to units will be on foot from the nearest road. Necessary repairs will be performed by NDOW personnel. For repairs requiring more materials than can be carried on the person, vehicles such as ATVs or a pickup truck will be used as needed. NDOW personnel will use a harrow or similar device to erase vehicle tracks in dry washes to discourage off road travel by the recreating public.
- Excavated soils and vegetation would be redistributed at each site or used to create an uphill berm to minimize erosion potential and cut down on wind pressure underneath the catchment.
- On lands where this activity results in significant loss of plant material, tracks left by equipment will be hand seeded with a BLM approved seed mix once construction is completed. NDOW will reseed the disturbed areas using a seed

mix provided by BLM Caliente Field Office. Wherever possible, existing vegetation will be avoided.

- Migratory Birds- If construction activities occur during critical nesting periods, the area of disturbance will be flagged and a wildlife team will conduct breeding bird surveys no more than one week prior to site disturbance to identify if migratory bird breeding or nesting is occurring in the area. The BLM wildlife team will be notified and either the BLM wildlife team or the proponent will conduct the required survey. Authorization for construction during this breeding period will be contingent on the findings of the survey and guidance from the BLM.
- Garbage- The Proposed Action sites will be kept free from any accumulation of litter including but not limited to trash, garbage, refuse, ashes, and equipment during construction and left in a clean and safe condition. Litter will be placed in storage containers on-site and properly disposed of at an authorized off-site disposal location.
- Wastes (Hazardous/Solids) - Hazardous and toxic materials such as fuels, solvents, and lubricants used during construction will be controlled to prevent accidental spills. Spill cleanup kits will be available on-site, so that any accidental spills could be quickly cleaned up. Any soils or sediments affected by accidental spills will be dug up and properly disposed of at a permitted disposal facility.
- Fire- Fire suppression equipment, including extinguishers and shovels, will be available on-site during construction activities.
- The BLM Ely District Weed Management Standard Operating Procedures and recommendations contained in the Noxious and Invasive Weed Risk Assessment (Appendix 2) for the project will be followed.
- Fences constructed in wild horse Herd Management Areas will be flagged with bright colored flagging to increase visibility of the fence.

Monitoring: Periodic monitoring will consist of the following:

- When the sites are visited for inspection, the crew will monitor any new infestation of noxious or invasive weeds.

- BLM and NDOW will monitor the sites for the continued operation of small game water developments.

2.1 No Action Alternative

Under this alternative, no water developments would be constructed. No enhancements to wildlife habitat would be made.

2.2 Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Detailed Analysis

A concern was raised during internal scoping about placing water developments in burned areas because there may be a lack of vegetation in burned areas. The Proposed Action locations were identified to exist in vegetated areas that have not been burned. For this reason no other alternatives were considered.

2.3 Conformance with BLM Land Use Plan(s):

The proposed action is consistent with the Goals and Objectives of the Ely District Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Ely RMP, BLM 2008), which are to:

Provide habitat for wildlife (i.e. forage, water, cover and space) and fisheries that is of sufficient quality and quantity to support productive and diverse wildlife and fish populations, in a manner consistent with the principles of multi-use management, and to sustain the ecological, economic and social values necessary for all species (p. 34);

To use wildlife water developments, both natural and artificial, to improve the condition of wildlife habitat (p. 34);

Manage public lands to conserve, maintain and restore special status species populations and their habitats' support the recovery of federally listed threatened and endangered species; and preclude the need to list additional species. (p. 37).

In addition, review of management decisions for other resources and concerns that would possibly be impacted by the project was conducted, and it was determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the Ely RMP.

2.4 Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, or other Plans:

The proposed action has been analyzed within the scope of, statutes, regulations, executive orders and BLM Policy listed below and found to be in compliance:

- State Protocol Agreement between the BLM, Nevada and the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (October 26, 2009)
- National Historic Preservation Act (1966) (Public Law 89-665; 16 U.S.C. 470 as amended through 2000)
- Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) (1979)
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act (1918 as amended) and Executive Order 13186 (1/11/01).
- Executive Order 13186: Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds (2001)

- The National Environmental Policy Act (1969) (42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4347, January 1, 1970, as amended 1975 and 1994)

- The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (1976) (43 U.S.C. §§ 1701-1782, October 21, 1976, as amended 1978, 1984, 1986, 1988, 1990-1992, 1994 and 1996)

- Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Standards and Guidelines (12 February 1997).

- Endangered Species Act (ESA) (1973).

- Lincoln County Public Lands Policy Plan (2010)

3.0 Affected Environment/Environmental Impacts

This chapter presents the potentially affected existing environment (i.e., the physical, biological, social, and economic values and resources) of the impact area and the analysis of issues.

While issues may arise during scoping, not all of the issues raised warrant analysis. Issues raised through scoping are analyzed if:

- Analysis of the issue is necessary to make a reasoned choice between alternatives.
- The issue is significant (an issue associated with a significant direct, indirect, or cumulative impact or where analysis is necessary to determine the significance of impacts).
- If there is a disagreement about the best way to use a resource, or resolve an unwanted resource condition, or potentially significant effects of a proposed action or alternative.

Potential impacts to the following resources/concerns were evaluated in accordance with criteria listed above to determine if detailed analysis was required. Consideration of some of these items is to ensure compliance with laws, statutes or Executive Orders that impose certain requirements upon all Federal actions. Other items are relevant to the management of public lands in general, and to the Ely District BLM in particular.

The following table documents the issues evaluation:

Resource/Concern	**Issues Analyzed (Y/N)**	**Rationale for Dismissal from Detailed Analysis or Issue(s) Requiring Detailed Analysis**
Air Quality	N	The proposed action and alternatives are not expected to cause air quality to exceed National standards.
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	N	This resource is not present within this project location.

Cultural Resources	N	No cultural resources were found during a survey of the project areas. The water developments will be sited within a five acre area in such a way as to avoid any cultural resource sites.
Environmental Justice	N	This project is not anticipated to disproportionately affect any minority or economically disadvantaged population.
Fish and Wildlife	N	Individual wildlife may be temporarily displaced or disturbed during implementation. However, this project will be beneficial for wildlife species.
Prime and Unique Farmlands	N	Resource not present.
Threatened or Endangered Species or Critical Habitat	N	There are no Threatened or Endangered Species listed or proposed for listing known to occur within the project area.
Floodplains	N	No floodplains occur within the project area.
Forest Health	N	Project location occurs outside of forest and/or woodland areas.
Lands and Realty	N	There are no conflicting rights-of-way within the project area.
Lands with Wilderness Character	N	Not present in the project area.
Migratory Birds	N	Project implementation would not take place during the migratory bird nesting period, May 15 to July 15, without a nesting bird survey. The proposed action would not affect migratory birds.
Mineral Resources	N	No mineral operations occur within the project area.
Native American Religious and other Concerns	N	There are no Native American traditional religious sites or cultural sites of importance within the proposed project area.
Special Status Plant Species, other than those listed or proposed by the FWS as Threatened or Endangered.	N	There are no Special Status Plant Species within the project area.
Noxious and Invasive Weed Management	N	The Ely District weed inventory data were consulted for this project. There are currently no documented weed infestations at the project areas. Design features and monitoring in the proposed action would prevent the establishment and spread of weeds.

Paleontological Resources	N	The project would not affect any paleontological resources.
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid	N	No known hazardous or solid wastes exist on the project area, nor would any be introduced.
Recreation Uses	N	There would be a slight enhancement to hunting opportunities due to habitat enhancement for upland game species.
Rangeland Health	N	No impacts would occur to rangeland health as a result of this project.
Special Status Plant Species, other than those listed or proposed by the FWS as Threatened or Endangered	N	Resource not known to be present.
Special Status Animal Species, other than those listed or proposed by the FWS as Threatened or Endangered	N	No effects to special status species are anticipated.
Soil Resources	N	No impacts will occur from this project.
Vegetative Resources	N	No impacts will occur from this project.
Visual Resource Management	N	No direct or cumulative impacts would occur.
Wilderness	N	Project not in wilderness.
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid	N	The proposed action or alternatives would not produce hazardous or solid wastes.
Water Quality, Surface/Ground	N	No surface water is present in the project area. No water in the project area is used for human drinking purposes.
Water Resources (Water Rights)	N	The proposed action is not expected to lead to a measurable change in the surface and subsurface water sources, water rights, and quantity of water that occurs in the analysis area. The appropriation of water is the responsibility of the Nevada State Water Engineer.
Wild Horses	N	The proposed action is within the Rattlesnake Herd Management Area. Potential adverse impacts of the proposed action are avoided by design features.
Wild and Scenic Rivers	N	No Wild and Scenic Rivers occur within or adjacent to the project area.
Wetlands/Riparian Zones	N	These resources are not present within this project area.
Wild and Scenic Rivers	N	This resource is not present within this project area.

3.1 Affected Environment

These water developments would be located in the transition zone where the Mojave mid-elevation mixed desert scrub meets the Great Basin xeric mixed sagebrush shrub land. The southern portion of the project area includes Mojave Desert scrub consisting of Creosote/black brush/Joshua tree communities containing Yucca (*Yucca baccata*), Ephedra (*Ephedra viridis*), hopsage (*Grayia spinosa)*, and buckhorn cholla (*Opuntia acanthocarpa*) with an understory of Indian rice grass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*) and big galleta (*Pleuraphis rigida*). The northern portion of the project area transitions to Sagebrush/rabbitbrush/bitterbrush communities. Forbs such as desert globemallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), *Penstemon* sp., and desert paintbrush (*Castilleja angustifolia*) can be found in both zones. Higher elevation areas where upland water developments may be located also contain pinyon/juniper woodlands with scrub oak/manzanita.

The soil types in the areas of the proposed action are strongly associated with landforms and physiographic location (Blackburn 1998). The types of soils that have developed have been strongly influenced by the type of bedrock geology. The valley locations are typified by unconsolidated sedimentary deposits including alluvial and lakebed deposits. The areas adjacent to the mountain ranges are composed of alluvial fans and related features. The mountain ranges generally are composed of sedimentary, metamorphic, and igneous rocks.

The project areas encompassed by the proposed action may contain habitat for big game species such as desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), and elk (*Cervus canadensis*). Additionally, the project area may contain habitat for a variety of other species, such as mountain lion (*Puma concolor*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), chukar (*Alectoris chukar*), Gambel's quail (*Callipepla gambelii*), mourning dove *(Zenaida macroura*), and a variety of passerine songbirds, bats, and other small mammals and reptiles. A number of migratory bird species may inhabit or use the project areas, Appendix 3 lists some of the known bird species in or near the project area.

3.2 Environmental Consequences

No issues identified were found to require detailed analysis. No cumulative impacts would occur due to incremental effects from the proposed action.

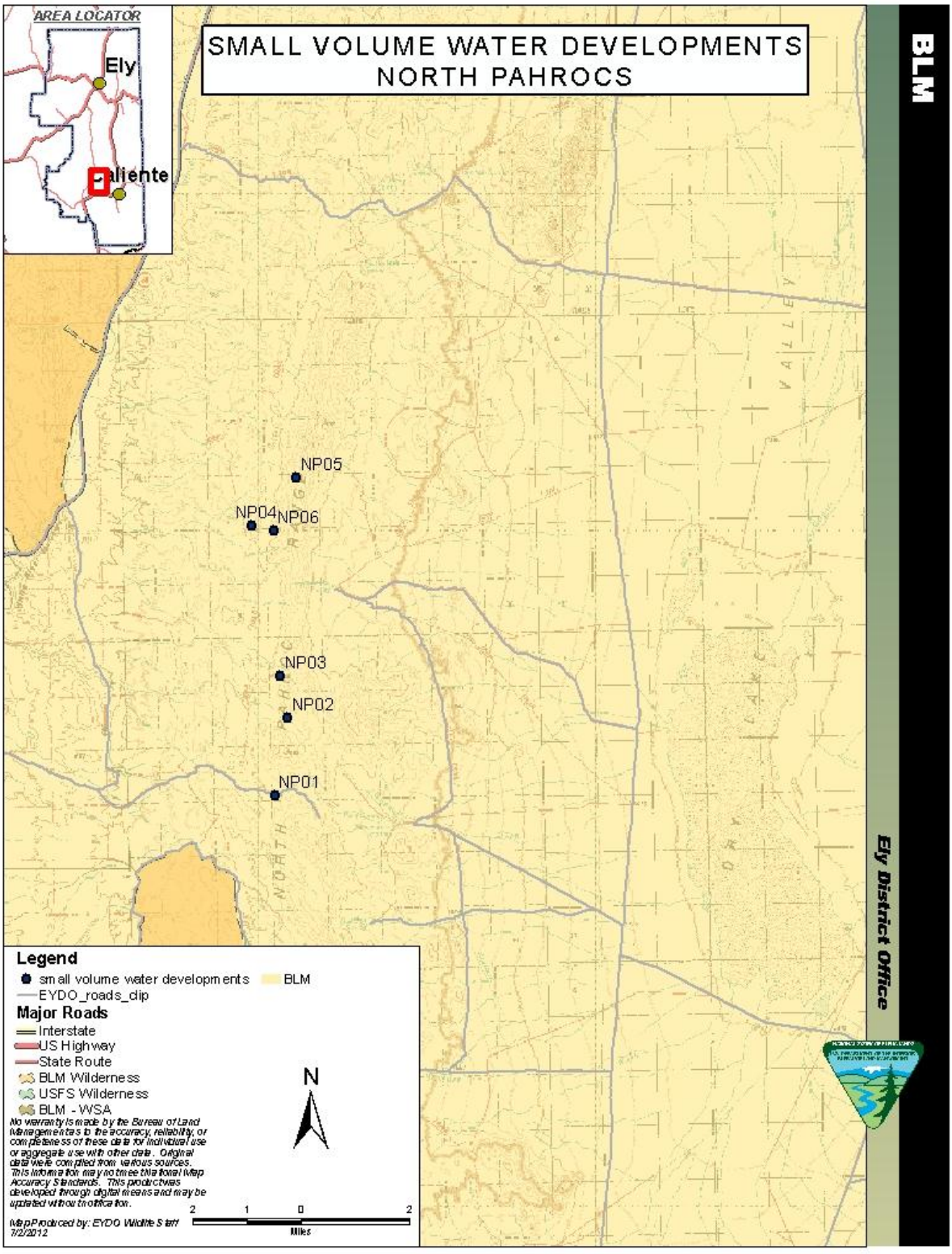
4. Consultation and Coordination

The project was scoped with the Caliente Field Office Interdisciplinary (ID) team on July 17, 2012. The ID Team provided comments on the EA. The BLM posted the EA on the EPlanning website for public comment for two weeks.

List of Preparers - BLM Resource Specialists

Alicia Styles	Wildlife Biologist/Project Lead
Travis Young	Planning and Environmental Coordinator
Cameron Boyce	Noxious and Invasive Weeds; Natural Resources
Erica Husse	Fire/ESR
Nick Pay	Cultural Resources
Ben Noyes	Wild Horse and Burro Resources
Elvis Wall	Native American Cultural Concerns
Emily Simpson	Wilderness
Clint Wertz	Assistant Field Manager
Lisa Domina	Outdoor Recreation Planner
Alan Kunze	Geology/Minerals
Ty Chamberlin	Lands and Realty
Melanie Peterson	Hazmat; Human Health and Safety
Kyle Teel	Fuels; Fire Management

Appendix 1


AREA LOCATOR
Ely
Caliente
SMALL VOLUME WATER DEVELOPMENTS
NORTH PAHROCS
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Appendix 2

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR NOXIOUS & INVASIVE WEEDS

Small Volume Water Developments—North Pahroc
Lincoln County, Nevada

On July 10, 2012, a Noxious & Invasive Weed Risk Assessment was completed for Nevada Department of Wildlife's Small Volume Water Developments North Pahrocs to conduct guzzler construction in Lincoln County, NV. Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) proposes to construct seven small volume water developments (see map) designed to provide water to birds, small mammals and reptiles. Each unit would consist of a fiberglass tank with a capacity ranging from 350 to 900 gallons which would be buried up to the lip (10' X 5' X 2' deep), and equipped with a fiberglass lid to keep out dirt and debris and to slow evaporation, and a rocked in fiberglass ramp to allow access for target species. A 14'6" X 16' metal catchment apron is then constructed over the tank with a gutter and downspout attached to channel rainwater into the tank once it hits the apron (see figure 1 below). Guidelines for small volume water development construction can be found in BLM Technical Note #397 "Wildlife Water Catchment Construction in Nevada", September, 1997. These guidelines will be followed. There is no separate drinker associated with this unit. At a 4" annual precipitation rate, each unit would capture 578.45 gallons per year, filling the 900 gallon tank in just less than 19 months. Each unit would be fenced to BLM specifications (i.e., 42 inches high with three strands of barbed wire and a smooth bottom wire) using t-posts and barbed wire to exclude large ungulates and domestic cattle. The footprint of each unit would be approximately 625 square feet (with a 25'X 25' fence). Total amount of permanently disturbed habitat would be 5,625 square feet, or roughly one tenth of an acre. NDOW would construct the water developments in fall 2012 to 2013.

No field weed surveys were completed for this project. Instead the Ely District weed inventory data was consulted. There are currently no mapped weed infestations within the project area.

There is a likelihood of undocumented weeds scattered along roads in the area. The project area was last inventoried for noxious weeds in 2007.

A list of species undocumented in the District's follows:

Arctium minus	Common burdock
Bromus diandrus	Ripgut brome
Bromus rubens	Red brome
Bromus tectorum	Cheatgrass
Ceratocephala testiculata	Bur buttercup
Convolvulus arvensis	Field bindweed
Elaeagnus angustifolia	Russian olive
Erodium circutarium	Filaree
Kochia scoparia	Kochia

Halogeton glomeratus	Halogeton
Marrubium vulgare	Horehound
Salsola kali	Russian thistle
Sysimbrium altissimum	Tumble mustard
Tragopogon dubius	Yellow salsify
Ulmus pumila	Siberian elm
Verbascum thapsus	Common mullein

Factor 1 assesses the likelihood of noxious/invasive weed species spreading to the project area.

None (0)	Noxious/invasive weed species are not located within or adjacent to the project area. Project activity is not likely to result in the establishment of noxious/invasive weed species in the project area.
Low (1-3)	Noxious/invasive weed species are present in the areas adjacent to but not within the project area. Project activities can be implemented and prevent the spread of noxious/invasive weeds into the project area.
Moderate (4-7)	Noxious/invasive weed species located immediately adjacent to or within the project area. Project activities are likely to result in some areas becoming infested with noxious/invasive weed species even when preventative management actions are followed. Control measures are essential to prevent the spread of noxious/invasive weeds within the project area.
High (8-10)	Heavy infestations of noxious/invasive weeds are located within or immediately adjacent to the project area. Project activities, even with preventative management actions, are likely to result in the establishment and spread of noxious/invasive weeds on disturbed sites throughout much of the project area.

For this project, the factor rates as Low (2) at the present time. The closest weed infestation is Russian knapweed, which is 4 miles from the project area and not likely to be encountered by project crews. This infestation has been treated and may have been eradicated at this point in time.

Factor 2 assesses the consequences of noxious/invasive weed establishment in the project area.

Low to Nonexistent (1-3)	None. No cumulative effects expected.
Moderate (4-7)	Possible adverse effects on site and possible expansion of infestation within the project area. Cumulative effects on native plant communities are likely but limited.
High (8-10)	Obvious adverse effects within the project area and probable expansion of noxious/invasive weed infestations to areas outside the project area. Adverse cumulative effects on native plant communities are probable.

This project rates as Moderate (8) at the present time. The reason for this rating is because the area is free of noxious weeds at this time and presumed to be ecologically intact. However, cheatgrass *(Bromus tectorum)* is already present in the area and could likely affect the fire regime of the area.

The Risk Rating is obtained by multiplying Factor 1 by Factor 2.

None (0)	Proceed as planned.
Low (1-10)	Proceed as planned. Initiate control treatment on noxious/invasive weed populations that get established in the area.
Moderate (11-49)	Develop preventative management measures for the proposed project to reduce the risk of introduction of spread of noxious/invasive weeds into the area. Preventative management measures should include modifying the project to include seeding the area to occupy disturbed sites with desirable species. Monitor the area for at least 3 consecutive years and provide for control of newly established populations of noxious/invasive weeds and follow-up treatment for previously treated infestations.

High (50-100)	Project must be modified to reduce risk level through preventative management measures, including seeding with desirable species to occupy disturbed site and controlling existing infestations of noxious/invasive weeds prior to project activity. Project must provide at least 5 consecutive years of monitoring. Projects must also provide for control of newly established populations of noxious/invasive weeds and follow-up treatment for previously treated infestations.

For this project, the Risk Rating is Moderate (16). This indicates that the project can proceed as planned as long as the following measures are followed:

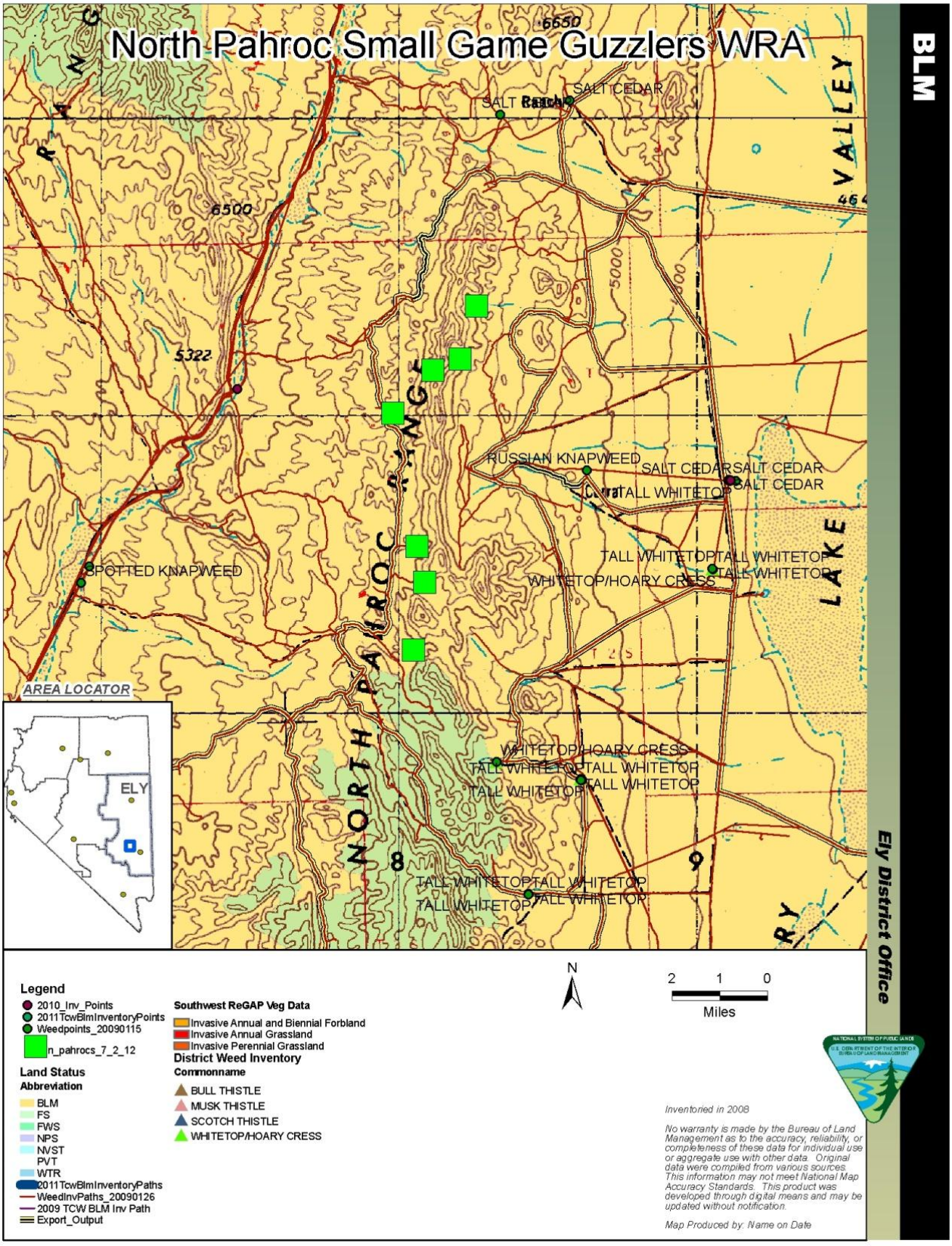
- Continue to use integrated weed management to treat weed infestations and use principles of integrated pest management to meet management objectives and to reestablish resistant and resilient native vegetation communities.
- When manual weed control is conducted, remove the cut weeds and weed parts and dispose of them in a manner designed to kill seeds and weed parts.
- All straw, hay, straw/hay, or other organic products used for reclamation or stabilization activities, must be certified that all materials are free of plant species listed on the Nevada noxious weed list or specifically identified by the Ely District Office.
- Where appropriate, inspect source sites such as borrow pits, fill sources, or gravel pits used to supply inorganic materials used for construction, maintenance, or reclamation to ensure they are free of plant species listed on the Nevada noxious weed list or specifically identified by the Ely District Office. Inspections will be conducted by a weed scientist of qualified biologist.
- Where appropriate, vehicles and heavy equipment used for the completion, maintenance, inspection, or monitoring of ground disturbing activities; for emergency fire suppression; or for authorized off-road driving will be free of soil and debris capable of transporting weed propagules. Vehicles and equipment will be cleaned with power or high pressure equipment prior to entering or leaving the work site or project area. Vehicles used for emergency fire suppression will be cleaned as a part of check-in and demobilization procedures. Cleaning efforts will concentrate on tracks, feet and tires, and on the undercarriage. Special emphasis will be applied to axels, frames, cross members, motor mounts, on and underneath steps, running boards, and front bumper/brush guard assemblies. Vehicle cabs will be swept out and refuse will be disposed of in waste receptacles. Cleaning sites will be recorded using global positioning systems or other mutually acceptable equipment and provided to the Ely District Office Weed Coordinator or designated contact person.
- To minimize the transport of soil-borne noxious weed seeds, roots, or rhizomes, infested soils or materials will not be moved and redistributed on weed-free or relatively weed-free areas. In areas where infestations are identified or noted and infested soils, rock, or overburden must be moved, these materials will be salvaged and stockpiled adjacent to the area from which they were stripped. Appropriate measures will be taken to minimize wind and water erosion of these stockpiles. During reclamation, the materials will be returned to the area from which they were stripped.
- Determine seed mixes on a site specific basis dependent on the probability of successful establishment. Use native and adapted species that compete with annual invasive species or meet other objectives.

- For soil disturbing actions which will require reclamation, salvage and stockpile all available growth medium prior to surface disturbances. Seed stockpiles if they are to be left for more than one growing season. Re-contour all disturbance areas to blend as nearly as possible with the natural topography prior to re-vegetation. Rip all compacted portions of the disturbance to an appropriate depth based on site characteristics. Establish an adequate seed bed to provide good seed-to-soil contact.
- Keep removal and disturbance of vegetation would be kept to a minimum through construction site management (e.g. using previously disturbed areas and existing easements, limiting equipment/materials storage and staging area sites, etc.)
- Certify that all interim and final seed mixes, hay, straw, and hay/straw products are free of plant species listed on the Nevada noxious weed list.
- Re-spread weed-free vegetation removed from the right-of-way to provide protection, nutrient recycling, and seed source.
- When managing in areas of special status species, carefully consider the impacts of the treatment on such species. Wherever possible, hand spraying of herbicides is preferred over other methods.
- Do not conduct noxious and invasive weed control within 0.5 mile of nesting and brood rearing areas for special status species during the nesting and brood rearing season.
- All applications of approved pesticides will be conducted only be certified pesticide applicators or by personnel under the direct supervision of a certified applicator.
- Prior to entering public lands, the contractor, operator, or permit holder will provide information and training regarding noxious weed management and identification to all personnel who will be affiliated with the implementation of the project. The importance of preventing the spread of weeds to un-infested areas and importance of controlling existing populations of weeds will be explained.
- Whenever possible, hand spraying of herbicides is preferred over other methods at heavily used recreation sites (i.e. campgrounds, trailheads, etc.).

Reviewed by: Cameron Boyce 7/11/12

Cameron Boyce
Caliente Field Office Noxious & Invasive Weeds Coordinator

Date


North Pahroc Small Game Guzzlers WRA
BLM
Ely District Office
SALT CEDAR
RUSSIAN KNAPWEED
SALT CEDAR
TALL WHITETOP
SPOTTED KNAPWEED
WHITETOP/HOARY CRESS
AREA LOCATOR
ELY
NORTH PAHROC SPRING
LAKE VALLEY
6650
6500
5322
5000
N
2 1 0
Miles
Legend
2010_Inv_Points
2011TcwBlmInventoryPoints
Weedpoints_20090115
n_pahrocs_7_2_12
Land Status
Abbreviation
BLM
FS
FWS
NPS
NVST
PVT
WTR
2011TcwBlmInventoryPaths
WeedInvPaths_20090126
2009 TCW BLM Inv Path
Export_Output
Southwest ReGAP Veg Data
Invasive Annual and Biennial Forbland
Invasive Annual Grassland
Invasive Perennial Grassland
District Weed Inventory
Commonname
BULL THISTLE
MUSK THISTLE
SCOTCH THISTLE
WHITETOP/HOARY CRESS
Inventoried in 2008
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.
Map Produced by: Name on Date

Appendix 3

The following data reflect survey blocks and/or incidental sightings of bird species near the project area from the Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Nevada (Floyd et al. 2007). These data represent birds that were confirmed, probably, or possibly breeding near the project sites. These data are not comprehensive, and additional species not listed here may be present in the area. Highlighted species are BLM Sensitive Species in Nevada.

Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
Red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*)
Great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*)
Common raven (*Corvus corvax*)
Short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*)
Ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*)
Turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*)
Ash-throated flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)
Bewick's wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*)
Blue-gray gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*)
Brown-headed cowbird (*Molothrus ater*)
Brewer's sparrow (*Spizella breweri*)
Black-throated gray warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*)
Broad-tailed hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*)
Black-throated sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*)
Bullock's oriole (*Icterus bullockii*)
Bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*)
Canyon wren (*Catherpes mexicanus*)
Crissal thrasher (*Toxostoma crissale*)
Gray flycatcher (*Empidonax wrightii*)
Gray vireo (*Vireo vicinior*)
Plumbeous vireo (*Vireo plumbeus*)
House finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*)
Lazuli bunting (*Passerina amoena*)
MacGillivray's warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*)
Mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*)
Orange-crowned warbler (*Vermivora celata*)
Pinyon jay (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*)
Rock wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*)
Sage thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*)
Spotted towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*)
Vesper sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*)
Violet-green swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*)
Wilson's warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*)

Works Cited

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